Bhaidullah Sudhi 14. Dr. Syed Mohmood, 15. Pandit Sunder Lal, 16. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, 17. Maulana Hetzur Rahman, 18. Shri Vithal Bhai Patel, 19. Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlu; and

(b) biography of how many of these national leaders have been published or likely to be published?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) The biographies of Shri C. R. Das, Pandit Moti Lal Nehru, Smt. Sarojini Naidu, Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, and Shri Vithal Bhai Patel have been brought out by the Publications Division and the biographies of Maulana Mohammed Ali, Hakim Ajmal Khan, Dr. M. A. Ansari and Shri C. Rajagopalachari have been taken up for publication.

Widening of the scope of Direct Taxes Act

1917. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to widen the scope of the direct tax act with a view to bring more assessees into the tax range; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) One of the objectives underlying the Government's tax policy has been to bring increasing number of taxpayers into tax net.

(b) To achieve this objective, deterrent measures like searches, survey, scrutiny of cases and prosecution have been intensified. The enforcement machinery of the Income-tax Department has been strengthened. The deterrent measures are accompanied by steps taken to encourage voluntary compliance through Summary Assessment Scheme and the Amnesty Scheme, which is in operation till 31.3.1987. Further, Clause 49 of the Finance Bill, 1987 proposes to widen the scope of tax deduction at source by providing that tax will have to be deducted at source in respect of any payment of fees for professional services or royalty or fees for technical services or rent or commission or brokerage made by any person other than an individual or Hindu undivided family. Payments for supply of goods to Government or any local authority etc. is also proposed to be made liable for deduction of tax at source.

Economic survey in Bihar

1918. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any economic survey in the State of Bihar regarding the per capita income of State during 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(b) whether there has been any fall while comparing to the preceding years;

(c) if so, to what extent and what are the reasons thereof; and

(d) what steps Government propose to improve the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The estimate of net State domestic product (State income) and per capita income are compiled by the respective State Governments at current and constant prices and furnished to the Central Statistical Organisation. The State Government of

Bihar have compiled these estimates for 1983-84 and 1984-85. The estimate for 1985-86 are not yet available.

(b) There has been no fall in the per capita income of Bihar during 1983-84 and 1984-85 as per estimates prepared by the State Government.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Yen rise to cost India Rs. 3.2 billion

1919. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 16th December, 1986 under the caption Yen rise to cost India Rs. 3.2 billion per year regarding the effect of change of rate of the Rupee vis-a-vis Japanese Yen, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item referred to the views expressed at the meeting of the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee in regard to the appreciation in the value of Japanese Yen.

The exchange rate of the rupee is fixed with reference to the value of a basket of currencies, mainly of countries which are India's major trading partners. The exchange rates between the rupee and other currencies move upward or downward depending upon the fluctuations in the value of these currencies. In a regime of floating exchange atres, it is neither possible nor appropriate to make a forecast of any loss or gain to the country from trade|financial transactions.

Banks overcharging for services

1920. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 3rd January, 1987 under the caption 'Banks Overcharging for Services'; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government are taking to protect the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Government have seen the report referred to in the question. It had alleged that the nationalised banks were earning substantial revenue by the higher service charges fixed arbitrarily by them to meet their escalating expenditure.

The public sector banks have revised their service charges including those for issue of demand drafts and collection of outstation cheques. These revisions have been effected with the objective of covering at least partially the costs incurred by the banks in rendering such services to the customers. The revised service charges are based on cost inputs of the banks in relation to their services.

Complaints lodged with LIC for payment of claims under Accident Benefit Scheme

1921. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several complaints have been lodged with the Life Insurance Corporation for non-recovery of claims|non payment of claims with regard to policies issued under 'Accident Benefit Scheme';